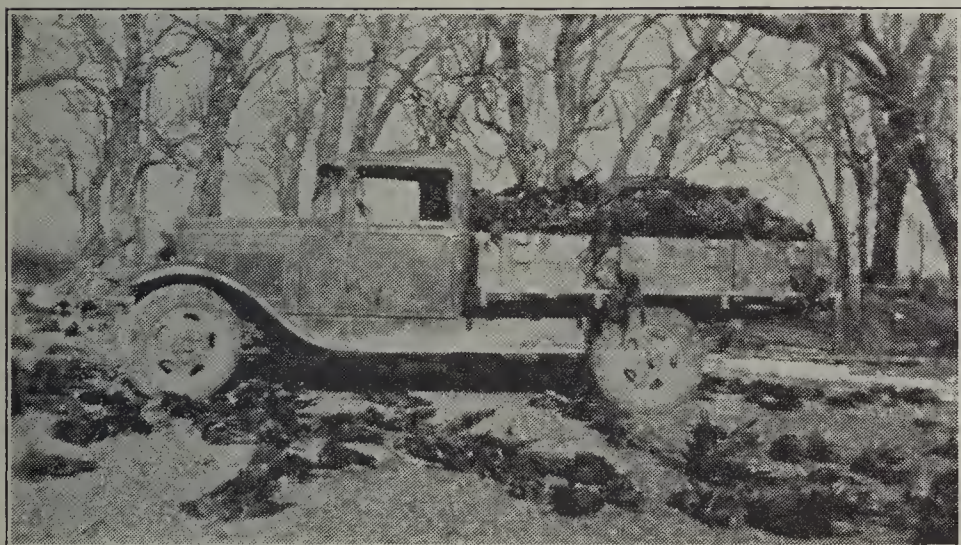


CROW HUNTS

AND HOW TO CONDUCT THEM



Truck Load of Dynamited Crows

HENRY HORNER, Governor

ISSUED BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS

C. F. THOMPSON, Acting Director



**Result of Trapping Hawks and Other Predators
on One State Game Farm.**



**Individual Accomplishments in Predatory
Control Work.**

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Henry Horner, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, C. F. Thompson, Director
Chart of Fish Seasons—Black, closed; White, open. (Dates Inclusive)

HOOK AND LINE ONLY.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Size Limits	Daily Limits	Seines in Illinois Waters	Nets in Illinois Waters	Sale from * Illinois Waters	Sale from Waters outside Illinois	Sale Size Limits
Bass (Black)—Southern zone.....						2-30							10 in.	10	Closed	Closed	No Sale	No Sale	No Sale
Northern and Central zone.....						15-30							10 in.	10	Closed	Closed	No Sale	No Sale	No Sale
Bass (Other than black).....													None	25	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	Rock, 6 in.
Blue-gills.....													None	25	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	Wh., St., 8 in.
Crappies.....													6 in.	25	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	6 in.
Goggle-eyes.....													None	25	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	8 in.
Perch (Yellow or ringed).....													None	25	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	6 in.
Pickrel, pike, pike-perch.....													None	25	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	7 in.
Sun-fish.....													13 in.	10	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	P., 15 in.
Trout (Except Lake).....													None	25	Closed	Closed	No Sale	1/1-12/31	P.-P., 13 in.
Buffalo.....				15-30									7 in.	10	Closed	Closed	No Sale	No Sale	6 in.
Carp.....													None	None	7/16-4/24	6/2-4/14	6/2-4/29	1/1-12/31	No Sale
Cat (Bullhead and Channel).....													None	None	7/16-4/24	6/2-4/14	1/1-12/31	1/1-12/31	15 in.
Perch (White).....													None	None	7/16-4/24	6/2-4/14	6/2-4/29	1/1-12/31	Ch., 13 in.
Black-fins, Chubs, Herring, Long-jaws													None	None	Not used	1/1-12/31	1/1-12/31	1/1-12/31	B. H., 8 in.
Lake Perch.....													None	None	Not used	1/1-12/31	1/1-12/31	1/1-12/31	10 in.
Lake trout, White-fish.....										1-19	21-30		None	None	Not used	11/21-10/19	11/21-10/19	1/1-12/31	None

RESTRICTIONS ON FROGS, TURTLES AND MUSSELS

Frogs—Closed season on bull frogs weighing more than 1/4 lb., April 1-July 1; otherwise no restrictions.
Turtles—Minimum length 10 inches.
Mussels—Open season—open waters, April 15-November 30; in Fish Preserves—June 2-November 30, both inclusive; minimum size 2 inches.

FISHING LICENSE—

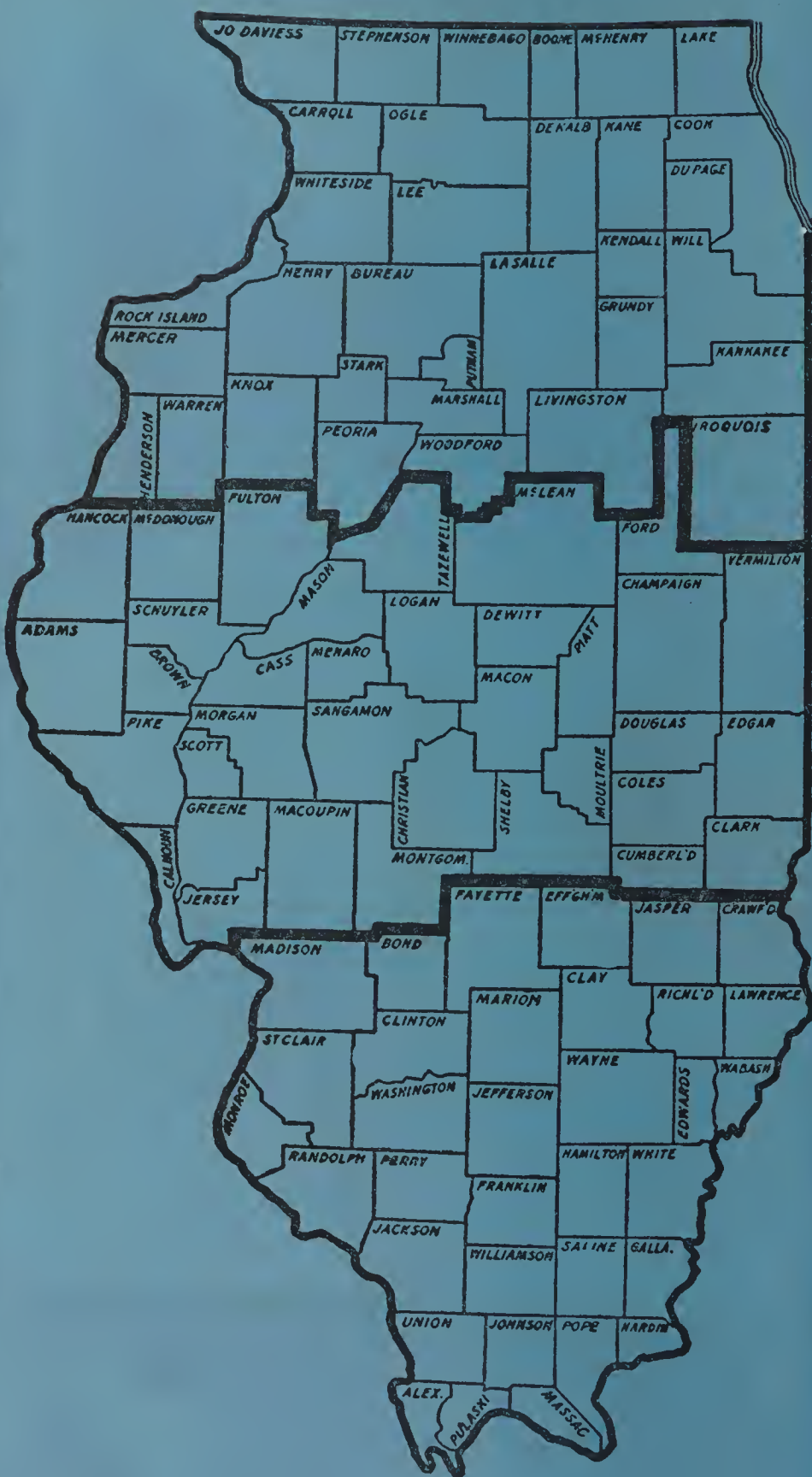
Resident, \$40—Clerk's fee, \$.10.
Non-resident, \$2.75—Clerk's fee, \$.25.

* Illinois waters—all those over which the State has any (full or concurrent) jurisdiction.

NORTHERN
ZONE

CENTRAL
ZONE

SOUTHERN
ZONE



SK
325
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CROWS---GAME'S ENEMY

Crow Hunts and How to Conduct Them

FROM the nesting areas of northern-most Canada, down through practically all our states, none of our game and song bird life escapes the Crow menace, as the Crow seems to be able to call any place "home." Not alone does he prey upon bird life, but crop losses have become so great as to necessitate concerted action. Fruit and grain crops are devastated, and the transmission of scale, blight and other diseases or infections is directly traceable to Crows, this latter source of loss being more recently recognized and now regarded by fruit growers as a prime consideration in orchard management. The Crows' habit of traveling extremely long distances from their roosting points to forage areas, renders this possibility the more menacing.

Any efforts in game bird protection or propagation must be accompanied by a well-ordered campaign for the control of predatory life, the Crow probably taking a larger toll in the destruction of our game at present than any other predator. Modern farming has also reduced natural cover-protection to such an extent that the handicap in the struggle of our game birds for existence is too great for them to carry on alone, and they must have our aid, in the control of their natural enemies, in order to survive.

The Illinois Department of Conservation is most anxious to encourage a comprehensive campaign of Crow extermination, in the interest of the conservation of bird life, and of the reduction of crop losses, and a fine type of sport can be provided thereby. This is most essentially a late winter sport, all hunting seasons being closed, and it supplies an outlet for the urge to hunt. Furthermore, much can be accomplished in this way to offset the increase in the present over-supply, which would normally occur during another nesting season.

Except when shooting "singles" for sport, care should be taken to locate rookeries frequented by large numbers of birds so that "mass shooting" may take the maximum number of Crows with the minimum amount of ammunition. Careful observation will enable you to locate roosts without

difficulty. The direction of the birds' flight in the late afternoon or early evening should be studied for this purpose. Sporadic and unorganized shooting should not be practiced. Periods of absolute rest and freedom from annoyance should precede each shoot. Otherwise the birds are restless and do not roost compactly.

Department employees have developed a method of taking Crows by using "bombs", which has proven particularly successful. Hedges or tree rows can be bombed with somewhat better results than a grove or similar arrangement of trees. Great care should be exercised in placing the wiring for the bombs and the bombs themselves in order that the birds may not become suspicious of anything unusual or unnatural where they are accustomed to roosting. This is true of all operations preliminary to or attendant upon any Crow shoot.

The bombs are prepared by using a tube approximately $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter by 10 inches long made of light-weight tin, this material being desirable on account of the force given to the explosion. One end should be closed, provided with a wire loop or eyelet, so that an electric wire may be put through it, and waterproofed—soldered if tin, as this end will be the top of the bomb as it is hung in the tree or hedge. About an inch of No. 6 shot may be placed in the closed end, then the stick of dynamite, around which should be poured enough more of the No. 6 shot to fill the tube, keeping the dynamite as nearly parallel with the sides of the tube as possible. A hole should be made in one end of the dynamite, large enough to insert the electric cap, a paper tube or some similar device being inserted in the dynamite while pouring in the shot so that the hole may be kept open for the cap. After the tube has been completely filled with shot over and around the dynamite, seal the whole with coal tar, pitch, paraffin or similar sealing agent, allowing the small tube in the dynamite to remain open for the electric cap. The cap may then be inserted and the paper crimped or crushed to hold it in place in the dynamite.

Fifty per cent dynamite, No. 6 drop shot, and No. 6 electric caps have been found to be the most satisfactory.

All wiring must be done in series, starting with and returning to the blasting machine. A blasting machine, or detonator, of sufficient capacity to set off all the bombs at once should be used, or much time, labor and expense will be lost.

Some observations should be made as to the manner in which the Crows roost, to serve as a guide for hanging the bombs. They should be about half-way between the upper and lower edges

of the space occupied by the Crows as they roost. Bombs should be from 20 to 30 feet apart, along the length of the hedge.

Extreme care should be used in handling the bombs. The accidental dropping of one might result fatally to persons engaged in the work, and only thoroughly experienced persons should undertake this method of killing Crows.

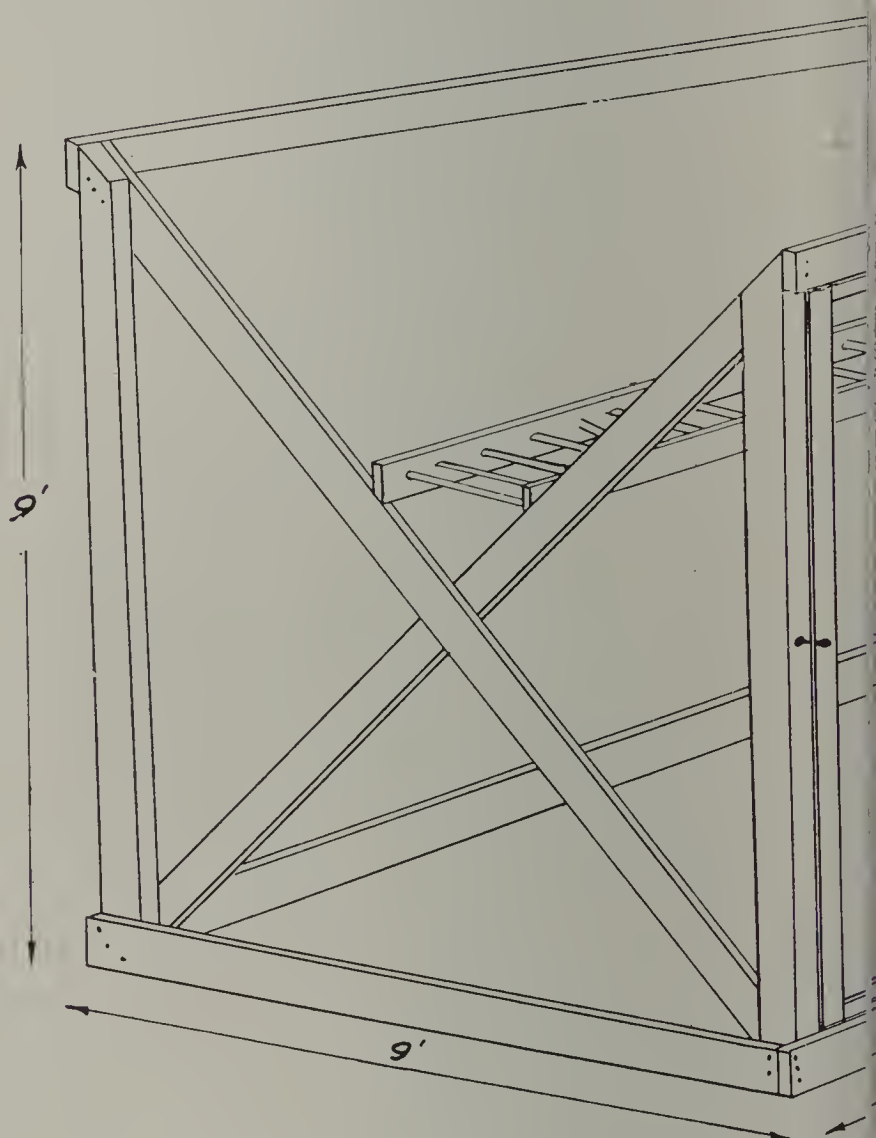
All preparations should be completed at least an hour before the Crows start coming in, and absolute quiet prevail until the blast is exploded, which should be long enough after dark to permit the Crows to become thoroughly settled.

A well arranged shotgun raid on a rookery harboring large numbers of Crows is an efficacious method of Crow hunting, but will not prove practical, except in a real rookery, where their concentration in the trees at night renders possible the killing of large numbers by firing directly into the trees. It is found, also, that while they will rise out of the trees when fired upon, they will immediately settle back and shooting may be resumed.

Where the Crows do not congregate in these numbers, but are common in a community, the preparation of a "blind", and the use of a Crow caller, or of a Crow or Hawk or Owl, will bring in many birds, to be taken singly. Any sportsman will find this real shooting. When used by an amateur, a "caller" does not give satisfactory results. A live Crow, Hawk, or Owl is then a more effective decoy, and may be used, adjacent to a blind or some means of concealing the hunters. These decoy birds should be securely fastened on a pole with a cross bar on which they may perch, high enough to rise above surrounding vegetation. These are most effective when erected in open territory (not corn fields) very close to the trees, brush, etc., used as a blind.

Crow traps, to be baited with any type of meat or carrion, are also highly recommended for the non-shooter, or for areas where shooting is not possible. These traps should be baited very generously—a dead pig or parts of dead horses or cows being quite satisfactory for the purpose. The trapped birds may be allowed to accumulate for a few days, if they do not come in in too large numbers, and a few should always be allowed to remain as decoys for others. Detailed plans and specifications for the construction of a trap are included in this pamphlet. New lumber should never be used for these traps, as it arouses the suspicions of the Crows at once. Old or used finished lumber might be used. Poles cut in the timber and used in their natural state are the best, however, and may even be allowed to retain some of their foliage or small branches. Anything unusual should be avoided or overcome.

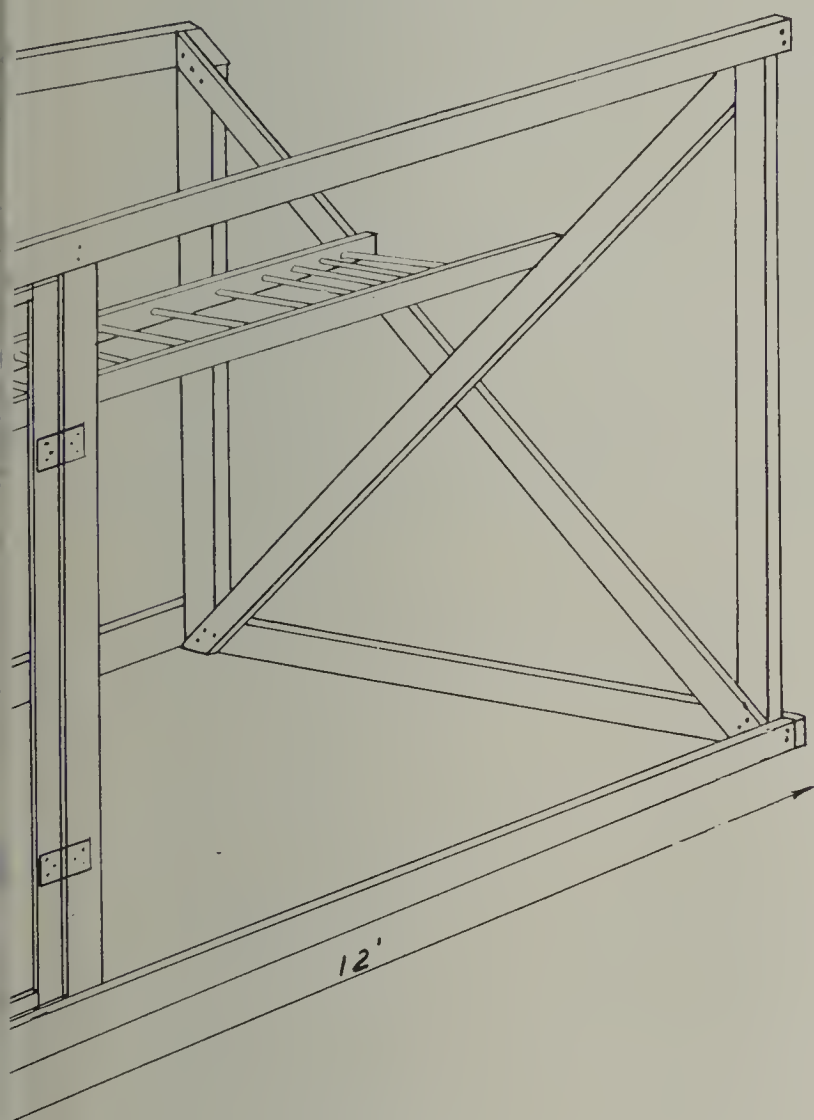
CROW



EXPLANATION

Vertical pieces 2"x4"; Horizontal pieces 2"x4";
 Sides, ends and top covered with 1/2" plywood
 being in the space formed by the cross-bracing.
 Ladder 9" wide; first four rungs 12" apart.
 Advisable to make frame in four pieces.
 Bait (meat or carrion) placed on ground in front of
 live birds as decoys.

PAP



ON

es and braces, 1"x4."

2" poultry netting, the only opening
the ladder.

' each end 3" apart; middle rungs 9" apart.

ons, bolted together, to facilitate handling.

d in trap with, if possible, one or two



**Dynamited Hedge Showing Equipment
Used, and Crows Killed.**



**The Result of a Night's Work With Shotguns
in an Orchard Rookery.**

Some competitive shoots or "matches" have been held in Illinois, with very splendid results. This plan can doubtless be followed to arouse interest in a shoot in any community. Records of Crows taken by opposing sides, in a given period of time, determine the results. Usually the losing side supplies some entertainment—possibly a dinner—for the winners; or furnishing the ammunition for the shoots might be made the obligation of the losers. A pioneer organization of this character in Illinois, the Kendall County Crow Club, furnishes the following interesting account of "shoots" conducted by it, which might be followed insofar as local conditions permit, in any community in the State:

"The best method found was to appoint two Captains who make drawings from the returned postals mailed by our secretary to the prospective hunters ten days before the day of our shoot. This drawing is made from the return cards received on the night before the contest starts. This method will produce two teams and we have an understanding that the team securing the lesser points will banquet those killing the larger number of birds."

Any interested community might organize several teams, who would compete in holding these shoots for a given period of time, thereby increasing the competitive spirit, and creating a wider interest in the program.

The Department of Conservation earnestly solicits the cooperation of sportsmen's organizations, and other interests throughout the State in this Crow extermination campaign. There should also be much interest in these shoots among merchants—particularly those selling sporting goods, ammunition, etc., as the conservation of our game means the perpetuation of their business. The Department of Conservation is not in a position to offer cash rewards or material financial support for the promotion of this campaign, as is done in some states, but urges sportsmen's organizations and other interests to supply such local financial assistance as may be required.

Employees of the Department are anxious to give all possible support to the program, and will gladly aid in the organization of "Crow Shoots", etc. The necessity of reducing the Crow menace is of immense importance and cannot be stressed too strongly. The Illinois Department of Conservation feels a deep concern in this work. It is spending the sportsmen's money for game propagation on a large scale, and must only fail, if Game's enemies cannot be effectually controlled. What justification can be given to replenishing the supply, when the losses are not checked?

Do not fail to furnish the Department of Conservation, Room 121, State Capitol, Springfield, with full and complete records of all kills—dates,

number of Crows taken, methods used in and recommended for taking them, on blanks forming a part of this pamphlet, etc.

We ask your interest, support and cooperation.

C. F. THOMPSON,

Acting Director,

Department of Conservation.

Date

_____, ILLINOIS
City or Town

Number of Crows taken_____

Method used_____
Traps, Decoys, etc.

Taken by_____
Name of Club, Hunter, etc.

Date

_____, ILLINOIS
City or Town

Number of Crows taken_____

Method used_____
Traps, Decoys, etc.

Taken by_____
Name of Club, Hunter, etc.

Date

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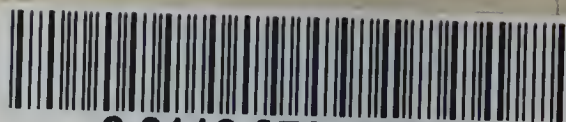
Date

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City or Town

Number of Crows taken_____

Method used_____
Traps, Decoys, etc.

Taken by_____
Name of Club, Hunter, etc.



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